

## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11, and 15-18 without prejudice and amend claims 10 and 12-14 as follows.

#### Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The repair method of claim 129 wherein said clips are attached to said ring in circumferential directions along said ring.

#### 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A mitral valve repair method comprising the steps of:  
providing clips each having two end points which are separated from each other when in  
an open configuration and tending to return to a naturally closed configuration by reducing  
distance between said end points when in said open configuration;

placing an annuloplasty ring about an annulus; and  
attaching said ring around said annulus by causing said clips to pass through said ring,  
wherein each of said clips has a tissue-penetrating needle releasably attached through a  
flexible member to one of said two end points therof and said step of attaching said ring  
comprises the steps of:

causing the needle associated with said each clip to penetrate and pass through said ring  
and tissue of said annulus; and

thereafter pulling said flexible member to position said each clip so as to hold said ring to  
said tissue, The repair method of claim 11 wherein said needle is caused to pass through said ring  
at two positions separated by a shorter distance, to penetrate said tissue at one position and to  
come out therefrom at another position separated from said one position by a larger distance than  
said shorter distance.

13. (Currently amended) The repair method of claim 129 wherein said clips are each generally U-shaped when in said open configuration, comprising a wire of a shape memory material.

14. (Currently amended) The repair method of claim 129 wherein each of said clips has a tissue-penetrating needle releasably attached through a flexible member to each of said two end points thereof and said step of attaching said ring comprises the steps of:

causing each of the needles of each of said clips to penetrate and come out of the annulus and to pass through said ring; and

thereafter pulling the flexible members to position said each clip so as to hold said ring to said tissue.

Claims 15-18 (Cancelled)